

TALAN

NEWS MAGAZINE



"Get a Grip"



FEATURING:

CRANES FOR PEACE p 4
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
& TUITION INCREASES p 17
SPECIAL SPRING INSERT
RED RANT p 21

 **Avila University**

VOLUME XVI ISSUE V

In This Issue...

Now that school is back into full swing everyone is busy, busy and deserving of a break. In three days—yes... THREE DAYS! Students will get a week and a half (March 13-23) off for spring break.

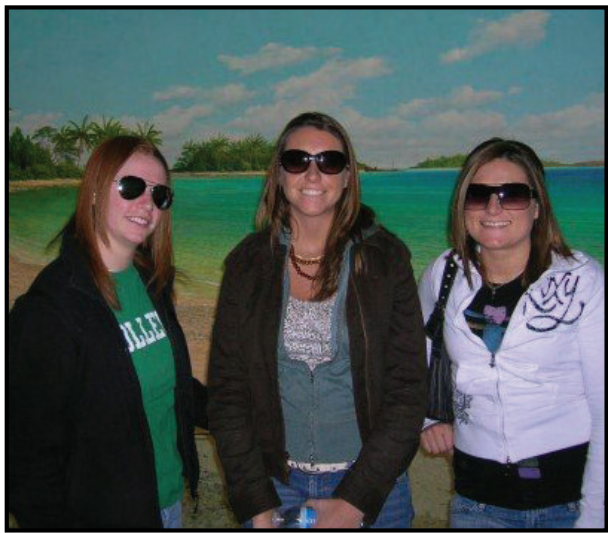
Our insert is dedicated to spring and has lots of content regarding the anticipated spring break, including ideal spring break spots, safety tips for the traveler, and fun ideas for the non-traveler. The insert also includes details of the Spring Fling, spring-cleaning, questions about the Easter Bunny, and much more.

There is also lots and lots happening on campus. Check out what the variety of organizations have been busy with, as well as upcoming events.

It always seems there are some renovations going on around campus, which may make it seem redundant or irritating. Girls and boys, Avila is evolving and taking strides in a new direction. Be sure to read plans for the new and improved AU.

Have the tuition blues? The feature deals with scholarship opportunities and tuition increases.

A who? A-U! Wow, I have never seen more school spirit than at the Women's Basketball playoff game Thursday March 28, in Mabee



This Spring Break create your own sunshine!!

Fieldhouse. The Women wrap-up an outstanding season on the hardwood as the Eagles venture outdoors.

Baseball and Softball hit the field in upcoming home games. Help show that same Avila spirit and come out and support our teams.

Avila also welcomes a new men and women's soccer coach—meet Coach Clements. Ah, and yes another weight room story. I know it's annoying but it won't stop until the athletes, yes the athletes and NOT the traditional students, (because they are the only ones who are able to use the facility) are happy.

The Talon carries some weight this issue, so enjoy. Maybe even outdoors, soaking in some of those anticipated spring rays.

I wasn't kidding when I said we weren't in school mood in our February Issue. In the last issue we missed a few slip-ups. If you caught them—typos and the missing half of the dance article—we recognize our mistakes and are working even harder to produce a better, more sufficient publication.

***Be sure to participate in the games & puzzles throughout (pg. 20, 31 & 32) the Talon and win a prize from our PRIZE CLOSET!!**
Prizes courtesy of The Talon, 98.9 The Rock and 9.5 The Buzz!!



Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer's name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

TALON

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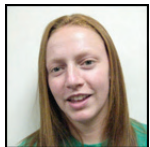
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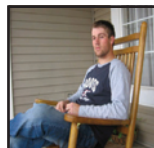
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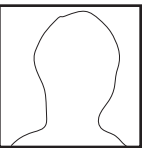
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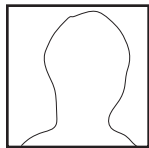
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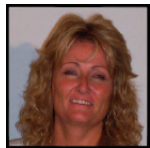
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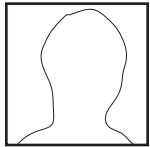
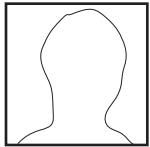
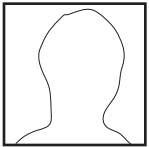
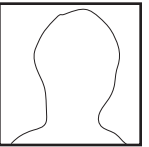
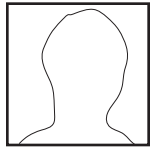
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We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

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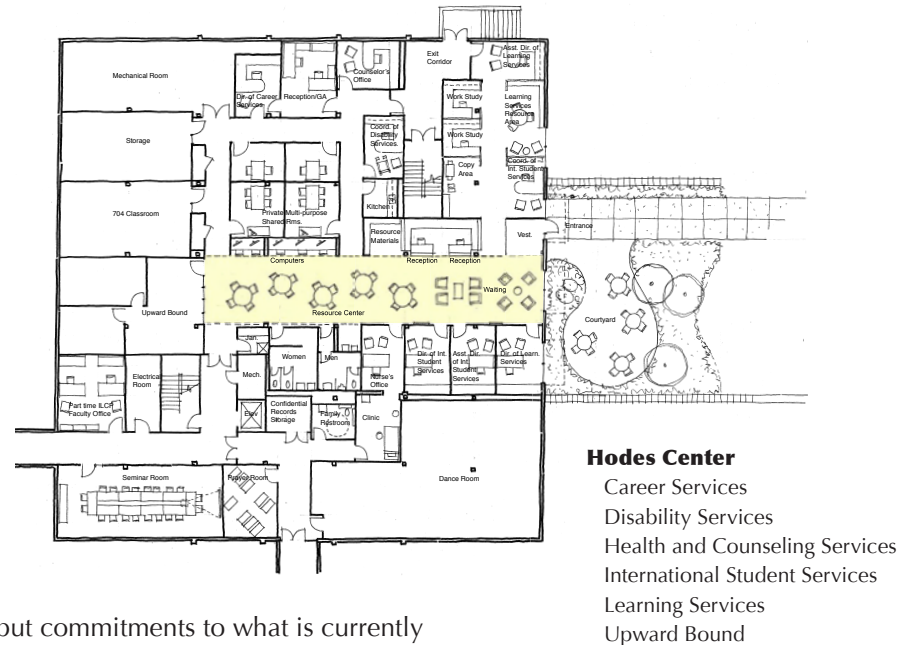
Montessori Closes at Avila

Among several changes on the campus of Avila University, students can expect to see the Montessori School in Carondelet Hall become a whole new environment by the beginning of the 2008-2009 Academic School Year. Due to matters of space constraint and the long lost program connecting the Montessori to the Education Department, consideration over renovating the Montessori school began. The idea was first addressed in the Executive Committee in Summer 2007 as a way to settle matters of space constraints, and the idea became a plan after careful consideration. According to Darby Peoples, Dean of Students, seven members of the Avila Community—herself included—have their children in the Montessori School. These parents have already discussed the plans, and have agreed to use nearby options. The preschool at Calvary Lutheran High School has already offered to help take in some of these children.

The new space in Carondelet will hold the Learning Services, International Student Services, Health and Counseling Services, Disability Services, Upward Bound, and Career Services. According to Dr. Ned

Harris, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Development, students will also be able to access a small lounge and computer area during business hours. Larger windows and a wide corridor will be added to allow more sunlight into the area,

Dr. Harris says the schedule is set to have the project completed by early-to mid-August, and summer housing will be provided in Thompson Hall as a result of the construction in Carondelet and the unrelated removal of dividers in Ridgeway rooms. 



but commitments to what is currently the playground of the Montessori have yet to be made. With the top priority being interior renovations, the remodeling will begin on the Monday after the Montessori's last school day.



Students have been awaiting renovations in Ridgway for quite some time, and as hoped for, Avila plans to take action. Darby Peoples, Dean of Students, mentions that Ridgway will be going through a demolition process this semester and it will continue through the summer until completion. The renovations taking place in Ridgway include the removal of the center dividers, which take up most of the living space, installing carpet which would replace the outdated tile, as well as new ceiling texture. Being that Ridgway was built in 1970 the wear and tear in the dorms has certainly taken its toll, and brought students health to question.

That may be reason for only approximately sixteen rooms being occupied in Ridgway. Most of the students that had resided there have relocated to Carondelet, Thompson, or found means off campus simply due to the uncomfortable living conditions.


Jessica Billips, a resident in Ridgway, states that she doesn't mind the dorms as they are. She mentioned that the center dividers smelled a little dusty but for the most part they have a lot of storage. Ben Watson, the Residence Director of Avila, is currently trying to relocate the students to one wing of the dorm in hopes to take the first step with the project next month.

Currently Avila houses 30% of its students on campus. Ron Slepitz, president of Avila, hopes for growth in the future. Within five years he plans to be able to house another 300 students on campus. These renovations will hopefully bring that awareness to the public and attract new and upcoming students to Avila.

After the Capital Campaign, which raised 16.5 million for Thompson, money was then set aside for these particular renovations in Ridgway.

However, while none of these projects

are currently in progress, there are a few things that are in the works. Darby Peoples mentioned that some of the computers that currently exist in Carondelet will be taken over to Thompson for students convenience. Having signed a contract with Coke, Avila also plans to add vending and soda machines to the dorms, as well as install laundry appliances.

Kyle Dilkes, a student at Avila, feels that having access to those appliances would be convenient. It would be easier instead of driving out in the bad weather to get a snack or drink. Students here at Avila are certainly pleased with the results of Thompson, but are anxious to see the end result of the Ridgway renovations. 

AndreaPinson

Ridgway Renovations

DaveArmstrong

1,000 Cranes for Peace



There is a Japanese legend that if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, your wish comes true. For the sixth anniversary of the war in Iraq we at Avila would like to create a display of 1,000 paper cranes for peace. If anyone would like to participate please call Jeremy Lillig at (915)501-3753 to pick up paper and "pledge" the number that you would like to fold.

If you don't know how, a very quick demonstration can get you started. We will be using red scrap paper in honor of the Sisters of St. Joseph call for peace. All of the paper will be recycled when we are finished.

We will display the exhibit in the chapel beginning March 25 when we return from Spring Break. So please help with our wish for peace. Thanks to Jeremy for making this a part of Avila's Harmony Month Activities.

The Sadako Story

The paper crane has become an international symbol of peace in recent years as a result of its connection to the story of a young Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki, born in 1943. Sadako was two years old when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. As she grew up, Sadako was a strong, courageous and athletic girl. In 1955, at age 11, while practicing for a big race, she became dizzy and fell to

the ground. Sadako was diagnosed with Leukemia, "the atom bomb disease". Sadako's best friend told her of an old Japanese legend which said that anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes would be granted a wish. Sadako hoped that the gods would grant her wish to get well so that she could run again. She started to work on the paper cranes and completed over 1,000 before dying on October 25, 1955 at the age of twelve.

The point is that she never gave up. She continued to make paper cranes until she died. Inspired by her courage and strength, Sadako's friends and classmates put together a book of her letters and published it. They began to dream of building a monument to Sadako and all of the children killed by the atom bomb. Young people all over Japan helped collect money for the project. In 1958, a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane was unveiled in Hiroshima Peace Park. The children also made a wish which is inscribed at the bottom of the statue and reads: "This is our cry, This is our prayer, Peace in the world". Today, people all over the world fold paper cranes and send them to Sadako's monument in Hiroshima.

CheyAnn Volkman A Club Full of Opportunities

If you are looking for a club that will fill you in on what's going on in the communication world, then IABC is for you. Avila has started an International Association of Business Communicators chapter that will provide students with great learning and networking opportunities.

IABC Avila chapter will bring in professionals from the communication field to share about their experiences and teach students how they can become involved in the communication world.

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join! Meetings will be held once a month in Dallavis. To join or for more information please contact Linda Stelluf at Linda.Stelluf@avila.edu or CheyAnn Volkman at volkman155856@avila.edu

STUDENT SCHEDULE DAY



Let's be honest, Avila students produce some of the best work out there. Whether it's papers or projects, we do it all, and we do it well. On Thursday *April 10, 2008* students from the undergraduate and graduate programs are going to be presenting their work. All campus community members are invited to attend. You've seen their work, you've seen their names... it's time to put a face with it.

Presentations start in the morning in Whitfield and the poster sessions start in the Library at noon.

PUT A FACE WITH A NAME

BenKopp

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Serve as a Whole for the Whole Value Vent

The seventh Avila Value, “interaction with and service to others” becomes questionable in terms of what is required for fulfillment. For example, levels of participation in service activities is often fantastic among student organizations and their advisors, yet many other areas of the Avila Community are not seen reaching out the same hand to other areas of the world.

“interaction with and service to others”

While many individuals from these areas most certainly donate to charities and work as volunteers, everyone should think of the last time a box with a “To Be Donated” sign sat outside an office. Perhaps we should also think of what department or organization was listed on that sign.

At the same time, perhaps there are complete networks of charities created among whole departments about which we do not hear. Maybe they even enjoy being anonymous toward the receivers of their donations. If, hypothetically, this is the case, then why can we never seem to join forces? We have great plans that involve unity when

the goal aids the university, but it seems that Avila University needs more. It is never enough to lead a truly caring hug with the tips of the fingers; rather, the heart, mind, and soul must radiate throughout the body and consume those who are involved. In the same respect, we need to bring the whole community of Avila University together for the sake of truly fulfilling the Seventh Value. Even if we are anonymous with what we do, the impact will be far better if we are together. Division—and even competition—among individual parts help the progression of learning and development, but unity gives life to the whole body!

DaniAsher

Need Someone to Talk to?



Word on the street is that Avila has a new clinical counselor. The rumor is true but

not to worry; Jennifer Forman-Wright is definitely qualified for the position. Jennifer grew up in Omaha and knew since she was a little kid that she wanted to be a counselor. The choice was easy coming from a family of counselors including her mom, whom she admired as she grew up.

“Counseling has always been a natural fit for me. Psychology was my favorite class and I was the go-to person when my friends needed to talk,” said Jennifer.

What Jennifer likes most about her job is interacting with people and making a difference. She has had her own private practice since 1993, but took a few years off to try careers in both sales and marketing. Jennifer learned about the Avila clinical counseling position from friend and former co-worker Stana Eager.

“I told her if her job ever opened up to call me. She had wonderful things to say about Avila.”

Jennifer accepted the position at Avila because she has always had an interest in working with college students, because there are so many changes happening for them. She thinks being able to provide support and guidance during this time is incredibly important and beneficial.

Now for some personal information: Jennifer has been married for almost eight years and has a five-year-old daughter. She loves reading, Sudoku, traveling with her family, and working on the fitness and health of her mind, body and spirit.

If you ever need someone to talk to, Jennifer is the woman. Common issues for college students include stress, anxiety or transitioning from high school to college. Feel free to make an appointment or just stop by. The Wellness Center is located at 722 Hodes or call 816.501.3767.

Every school is challenging. That’s just part of learning, but imagine going to school where your first language isn’t spoken at all. Although this country has always been a safe haven for immigrants, its inhabitants have never been too open to newcomers. Aside from having a language barrier with nearly every instructor, it would be hard to make many friends unless they spoke your language. Some students at Avila aren’t even lucky enough to have any fellow countrymen.

The International Student Organization was formed to make students from other countries more comfortable in this environment. They help students of other nationalities advance academically and financially at Avila. The ISO isn’t just for foreign students either.

Anyone who wants to expand their knowledge of other cultures is welcome to join. One of the main reasons immigrants aren’t welcomed properly when they arrive to the States is because of the ignorance of Americans. It’s hard for a lot of people to get used to different things and respect other beliefs.

“We want more American students to

join,” mentioned Jennifer Brooks, the ISO’s organizer and Avila staff member of the International Services department.

Since she only works with international students, she has little contact with American students here. In order for the ISO to stay well organized they need more American students.

“We have a high turnover rate because

international students usually join other clubs related to their majors after they get situated—which is good because that is one of the organization’s main goals,” said Brooks.

If there were more Americans in the ISO, they would be able to hold monthly meetings and assign officers, because they tend to stick



JavierKelt

ISO Seeks Recruits

around longer. The more diversity in the ISO, the better it will stay organized.

Although they don’t meet regularly, they stay very active in the Avila community, organizing the snowboarding/skiing trip to Snow Creek, ice-skating at Crown Center Plaza, and even a Mardi Gras celebration. They have at least four more events planned for this semester including a bowling trip and attending a Royals game.

They tend to have an icebreaker event at the beginning of each fall semester where they take a trip to Worlds of Fun. They also have a member of the organization from another country visit fourth graders at elementary schools to educate Americans early on about other cultures.

If you are interested in joining ISO you can visit the Student Life/Organizations tab on Avila’s website or e-mail Jennifer Brooks at Jennifer.brooks@avila.edu.

JacquelineSharp

Disability Advocacy Group: Taking New Strides

As a new faculty member at Avila, Julie Brogno is already finding out that she has big shoes to fill. Brogno is the advisor of the Disability Advocacy Group (DAG) as well as the assistant director of the Learning Center. DAG is a group of students who meet regularly with a mission to advocate students with disabilities and make fellow students on campus aware.

One of DAG's main goals is to inform students that people with disabilities are not always different from other people. This semester DAG has set goals for several

are going to be offering sign language classes available for students, faculty, and staff. The first class will be held February 25 and then the next two classes will be March 3 and 10. The classes will be held in O'Reilly room 207. DAG is also hoping to sponsor an event that would inform students about the routes that the disabled use on campus during a typical day at Avila. For example, if you use a wheelchair, to get from upstairs to downstairs in Blasco Hall you have to go outside and around the building.

DAG will also be hosting a movie night during finals week, which will be held in the library. The movie the group will choose to be shown will have a main character who suffers from a disability. By showing this movie, DAG hopes that students attending it will have a better understanding of the everyday struggles that someone with disabilities faces. DAG is also planning on hosting an event at Avila's Spring Fling later in the semester.

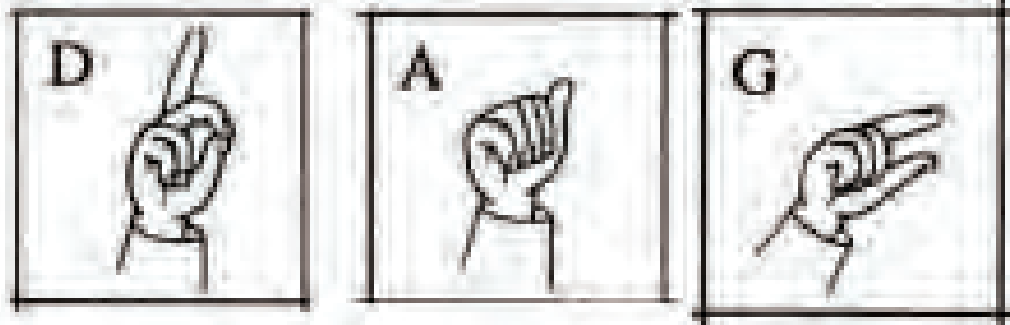
The group hopes to make more students familiar with their group and have more members join.

Right now there are five active members of the Disability Advocacy Group. "I hope to get more students to join," said Brogno.

An important fact to be aware of is that to be a part of this group you do not have to be someone with a disability. There are members of the group now that do not have disabilities, but only want to make other students, faculty and staff members aware of the challenges that the disabled face.

"We just want people who want to make people aware and advocate about disabilities," says Brogno.

The Disability Advocacy Group's next meeting will be on March 5. The meetings are held in the Learning Center, which is in the lower level of Blasco Hall. The meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and become more involved with the group.



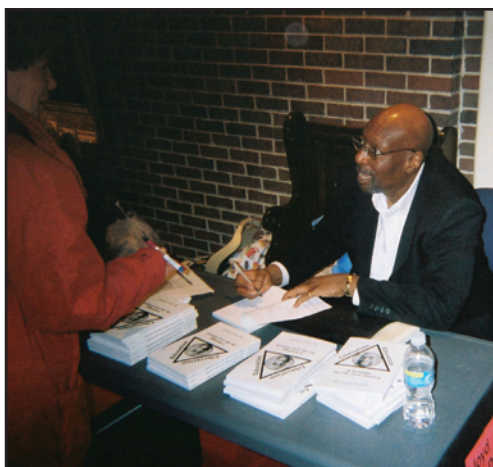
events to take place throughout campus. Starting this month they

Anyone who lives in the United States is aware of Black History Month. Most folks tend to associate it with African-Americans like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, whose names go synonymously with the civil rights movement. But what few people know is that, although Dr. King played a big role in the Montgomery bus boycott, E.D. Nixon (leader of the NAACP at the time) was the man who organized it. And Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech wasn't even the main event that day; a man by the name of A. Phillip Randolph had been rallying against segregation and was the main attraction—Dr. King was just the opening speech.

These were the less taboo subjects that Kansas City poet/activist, Lloyd C. Daniel, touched on at a presentation in Foyle Hall on Wednesday, February 20. The grandson of a freed slave from the Daniel Island Plantation (in South

Carolina) and the son of a fireman, Lloyd Daniel grew up in Liberia.

"Many Blacks have this stigma about Africa, but growing up there, I was able to see how I am in my true self. I wasn't ashamed,"



Daniel mentioned as he spoke to the filled Foyle Hall.

When asked more about his time spent in Liberia, Daniel compared it more to California than its stereotypical "Tarzan and Jane" image portrayed in the media. After his father helped organize a fire department in Liberia, the Daniels eventually moved back to America where they

settled in Kansas City. Lloyd attended Paseo High School and later received degrees at UMKC, KU and the University of Connecticut.

With his train of thought focusing on "thinking globally and acting locally," Daniel ran for office in the Missouri State Legislature. Being an activist, he realized the best way to make a difference was to get political. After being doubted by other politicians, Daniel won three years in a row.

Daniel stresses the fact that the American government has never been flawless and has been run like a bureaucratic dynasty, keeping the same group of people in power for decades.

"It's seven o' clock...let's do it," Black Student Union organizer Chamene Woods said in the lobby when it was time for Lloyd Daniel to drop some knowledge. Daniel brought along a saxophone player, protégé of legendary musician Bobby Watson, William Sanders. When asked why they had chosen to

collaborate, both replied that they respected what the other did and wanted to help each other as much as possible. Daniel doesn't feel like older people give young talents enough of a chance and he wanted to give Sanders that much more exposure.

The main focus of Daniel's presentation was the myths that surround Black History Month, which he made clear that most of America has tried to ignore. He quoted Abraham Lincoln's response to Stephen Douglas calling him a "nigger lover": "I will say that I am not, or ever have been in favor of bringing about in anyway the social equality of the white and black races... And I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the black and white races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

This was a direct quote from The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln. Daniel proved that Lincoln was just another politician doing what he had to do to get

JavierKelty

Droppin' Knowledge in Foyle Hall

to the top. More importantly, this quote proved Daniel's point that the Civil War ended slavery because only people can bring change to this society.

Daniel had no problem acknowledging Dr. King's greatness, but he added on that Dr. King couldn't have made a difference alone. His strong voice gave people the hope and power they needed to stand up for their rights. CoIntelPro (Counter Intelligence Program), organized by the federal government to keep surveillance on persons considered to be a national threat, accused Dr. King of having communist beliefs. Daniel proceeded to pass around a document that indeed showed proof that CoIntelPro was bugging Dr. King's home. When Daniel spoke with Martin Luther King III, he also said he believed the government had used James Earl Ray as a patsy to assassinate Dr. King.

Andrea Olitsky

Avila Mock Trial Team Members Win Awards

The Avila Mock Trial team just completed their season by competing in the Topeka Regional Mock Trial Tournament held at Washburn University. Twenty-two teams participated from schools located in Iowa, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The Avila team once again received a "Best Witness" award; 1 of only 10 presented out of 66 students. The award went to sophomore Angelique Hilsinger. In addition, the team was voted second



place for the spirit of AMTA award. This award is presented to the team that the other teams considered to be the most professional and respectful at the competition.

The 2007-2008 team was comprised of Emilie Brumit, Stacy Franklin, Joshua Loden, Chamene Woods, Michele Watley, Angelic Hilsinger, Tom Wolf and Ericka Brown. Coaching for her second season was Assistant Professor Andrea Olitsky, Esq.

The season consisted of three competitions: two invitational meets during the fall and the regional competition in the spring. One of the fall competitions was held at Avila University. This was the first time in many years in which Avila hosted a competition. Ten teams came for a one-day tournament. Many Avila faculty and alumni helped to judge the event.

This team has received an award at every competition in which they competed. At the KU invitational held in October of 2007, Brumit won "Best Witness"; at the Avila competition held December of 2007, Wolf won "Best Attorney"; and now at the Topeka regional held February 15-16, 2008, Hilsinger won best witness.

Mock Trial is a national intercollegiate activity that promotes critical thinking, cooperative problem solving, public speaking and mutual trust among team members while affording students the opportunity to actively participate in the trial process. Students assume the roles of both attorneys and witnesses for a hypothetical case, and engage in trial

activity and litigation. The student teams present the case in front of judges in competitions against teams from colleges and universities around the Midwest, as well as the entire nation.

Mock Trial is not just for those students thinking about attending law school. The oral communication and logical reasoning skills that are honed in mock trial will benefit all students, regardless of their intended career.

Mock Trial is a yearlong course. The case materials change each year, therefore, students are encouraged to enroll each academic year. The team welcomes new participants. Those students interested in joining the Mock Trial team can contact Professor Olitsky at 816-501-3793 or Andrea.Olitsky@avila.edu.



Daniel made everyone in the room more aware of how much each person can make a difference. If everyone started trying to improve their local lives and change the things that are in their control, while keeping the rest of the world in mind, this country would be less ignorant. Knowledge most definitely is power.

"Get your education, because that's something the system can't take away from you," was the final message Daniel wanted to leave as he made his way out the door.

Lane Goodin

National Society of Leadership and Success

There are some exciting things going on for the National Society of Leadership and Success. Thursday, February 21, was the first meeting of the semester. There were five people that attended the meeting, which is a great start.

Hillary Kershbaum, the president of the organization said that she would like to see the numbers rise each meeting. If you're looking for an organization this is one that will not only help you be a better person but also helps you to be more involved in your community.

Some things that NSLS are looking to become involved in are Harvester's and forming a walk team for the Relay for Life. Jennifer Brooks

NSLS is also looking to make Avila shirts as a fundraiser, so be looking for new shirts in the bookstore. They are also debating whether they should team up with another organization and with the sales of the shirt help raise money for that group too.

For this group there are some requirements to be an official member: attend a Leadership Training day, three video conferences and three success networking team meetings, and lastly the Induction Ceremony. If you are interested in joining this group, just come to a meeting.

"A lot of people might not like going to the requirements but in the long run it really helps you become a better person, you just need to keep an open mind," said Kershbaum.

Some up and coming events: Chapter meeting - Thursday, March 27, 3pm, O'Rielly 204. Video broadcast featuring Randy Haveson- "Tapping into Your True Potential" - Thursday, March 27, 4pm, O'Rielly 204. Video broadcast featuring Randy Haveson - "Tapping into Your True Potential" - Friday, March 28, 2pm, O'Rielly 204. This organization is

looking for people just like you to join. The membership requirements are easy and benefit you as an individual. If you would like any more information on this organization contact Hillary Kershbaum or advisor Jason Baldwin.



**MARCH
10**

DAG Sign Language Workshop
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in O’Rielly 107

Campus Ministry - Soup Kitchen
Cross Roads Salvation Army
in Foyle Hall 3:30 p.m. More info weeks4213@avila.edu

**MARCH
11**

Spring Break Safety Tips
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Marion Center
Sign a Pledge to not drink and drive for a chance to win prizes!

**MARCH
13**

Spring Break Begins

March Madness Basketball
Big 12 Championship
SPRINT CENTER 13-16

**MARCH
20**

Selection Sunday
March 20 & 21

**MARCH
22**

First Round
March 22 & 23

Springbreak Ends :(

**MARCH
27**

Second Round
March 27 & 28

**MARCH
29**

Sweet Sixteen
March 29 & 30

TAL



N

"Get a Grip"



MAY THE
LUCK
OF THE
IRISH
BE WITH YOU!



Spring Break Hot Spots

KayleWalker

Las Vegas

Everyone knows what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. College is a journey of milestones and one milestone every college kid meets is turning 21. Vegas is the ideal spring break spot for students 21 and up; it's full of life-- just spending time in the hotel is an adventure. Picking a hotel can be challenging and depends mainly on price; my only advice is book something on the strip. Most of the fun happens on the strip and you'll be doing a lot of walking and paying for cab rides so you'll want to be right in the center of it all.

During the day wind down at the hotel's pool, visit one of the many museums and exhibits the city has to offer, including Madame Tussauds' Wax museum, Bodies Exhibit, King Tut's Tomb and much more. Feeling adventurous? Spend time seeing one of Nevada's many canyons or national parks.

During the night there are many options to keep you and your friends entertained. The variety of clubs and shows goes on forever, so do your research in order to make the most of your trip. For more information visit lasvegas.com



Colorado

Ahhh the SNOW! For this spring break adventure you have to own a car and you have to like to drive it. You could fly into Denver but you would still have to rent a car, which requires you to be at least 26 years old and then you would have to drive an unfamiliar car through the mountains.

Since I am from Colorado, I thought I'd ask my ski fanatic family about their favorite ski destinations. Although none of them could agree, I picked some obvious favorites.

If you have the money (your parents are paying) Vail, Steamboat and Breckenridge have some of the best snow. If you're poor (you're paying) Wolf Creek, Monarch and Copper have great skiing. Keep in mind that if you do have the money to spend at a nicer resort you'll have to deal with a few snobby people, but at a less ritzy resort with simply great snow you'll get the locals. Stay away from Crested Butte AKA "crusty butt" because the tourists from a certain state are crazy and the snow is terrible.

After a few days of skiing you'll want to give the legs a break. Try snowmobiling, take a dip in one of the hot springs, visit one of the many breweries and wineries, or stay in and relax by the fire.

The drive is 700-800 miles so make sure you have a variety of music, especially because it'll be tough to pick up a radio

station unless you have satellite radio. And don't forget to pack your swimsuit, because sitting in the hot tub after a long day of skiing is a must. Visit colorado.com for more information.



Mexico

Going outside of the country obviously requires a passport and deciding on which city to visit can be rather tricky. My top picks for destinations would be Puerto Vallarta, San Jose Del Cabo, Cancun, or Cozumel. All these places are on the beach, so plan on spending lots of time in the sun.

Besides lounging on the beach try other adventurous activities. Snorkeling is a must, and for more experienced individuals, try scuba diving. And if you're lucky enough to not be cursed with seasickness, hop on a glass bottom boat or try deep sea fishing.

My only advice is plan on staying at an all-inclusive resort. It may cost more money up front, but in the long run you save. There is an array of activities, meals are provided, and if you're real lucky the drinks are free too. Not to mention, being in a different country can be dangerous and staying on a resort can be the safest way to go. For more information visit mexico.com. Spring break is about taking a break and enjoying being young. These are just a few vacations ideas; whether you choose to venture outside Kansas City or decide to relax and do absolutely nothing over the break, enjoy yourself!

Spring Break Safety Tips

Everyone deserves a break, and spring break is the ideal time for students to relax and enjoy themselves away from school. If you're planning a trip, it's good to have fun and relax, but remember to be responsible! Here are few safety tips for spring-breakers.

Tips on drinking alcohol: First and foremost, take care not to consume too much alcohol *(If you are not twenty-one or older it is against the law to consume alcoholic beverages; this section is not to encourage students to consume alcohol).*

- Plan ahead on how much you will drink, set a limit for yourself and follow-through with that plan.
- Know the drinking laws at your travel destination.
- Set up a "buddy system." If a friend feels sick, you should not leave them alone. And you should expect that your friends will look after you if you are sick. You should not assume that someone you have just met has your best interests at heart. Keep in mind that more people are sexually assaulted by acquaintances rather than by strangers.
- Be aware that excessive drinking can lead to more instances of violence and sexual assaults.
- And remember you can still have a good time and **NOT** drink!

Other helpful tips:

- Make sure that your family and friends know your departure and arrival times, where you are staying, and the phone numbers of where to reach you. Set regular check-in times and always follow-through with them.
- Always keep your hotel door locked. Never open your door to strangers. You should always leave the hotel with friends, and never walk alone.
- Avoid overexposure to the sun. Use sunscreen (SPF of at least 15), sunglasses, and a hat. You should also drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

Always make sure that you are dealing with a reputable travel agent. You should know exactly what you are paying for (hotel, transportation, and food).



MAKING
THE MOST
OF SPRING BREAK
DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO DRINK AND DRIVE

TUESDAY MARCH 11th: 11am- 1pm
MARION CENTER · PLEDGE AND WIN

P.E.A.C.H AND THE WELLNESS CENTER HAS BEEN "TAG"ED

WORD ON THE STREET

Where are you going for Spring break and what will you be doing?



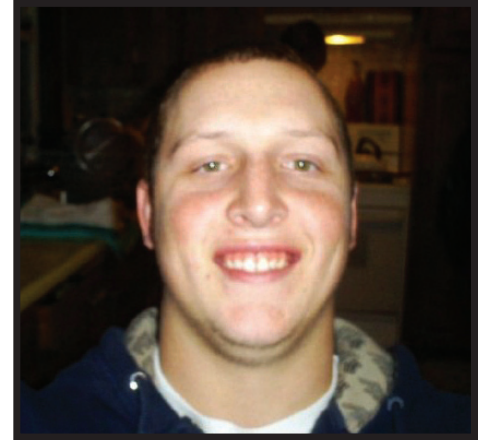
Kylie Gordon

"I will be going to L.A. for 5 days. While I'm there I will relax on the beach and go shopping."



Derick Barnes

"I'm traveling to Oklahoma. I'll stay there for 3 days to spend time with my family, party with my friends, and go camping."



Caitlin Knoll

"I can't wait to spend my spring break in Disney World for 4 days. It has everything you need... Fun and the Sun!"



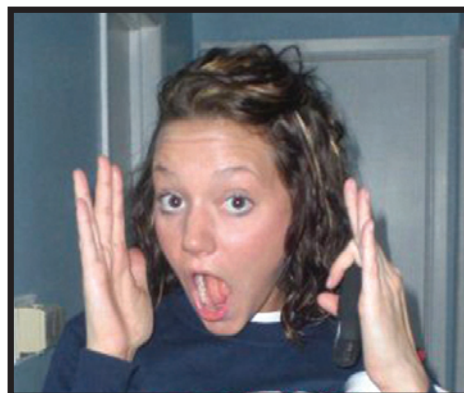
Joy Aurn

"I'm going to New York City for a week. I'm going to visit the Blueberry Commons, go shopping and definitely see a Broadway show."



Merritt Marty

"I'm going to Germany for spring break. I will be staying with my aunt in Munich for 10 days. I plan on going to a museum and running through a field of tulips while I'm there."



Kyla Milburn

"For spring break I'm driving to New Orleans for 5 days. I plan on spending time with my family, that I don't see very often, as well as celebrate St. Patrick's Day by hosting a parade in the French quarter."



Biggest Celebration in the City

MichelleMichalski

For me this is one of the holidays I look forward to the most. Winter is almost over and you get to enjoy a whole day of fun including a parade, fake heritage, good food, green beer, and all your friends are there to share in the fun!

My St. Patty's Day always starts at a friend's house for a nice brunch with Bloody Mary's and cheap beer. From there we put on as much green clothing, beads, sparkles, and hats as humanly possible and head downtown for the parade. One thing you may not be aware of is that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is going on its thirty-fifth year and is the largest single-day civic event in Kansas City. It starts at 11 AM on Monday, March 17, at the Sprint Center, travels down Grand, and ends at Crown Center. Once again there will be barricades up so take my advice and head out early to stake out a place to not only park but also to stand.

This year along the parade route are two new Irish bars, McFadden's and Paddy O'Quigley's. If you haven't been yet this would be a

good time to try them out. They are both spacious in size, have good drink specials, and serve food!

Usually after the parade it's time to hit up Westport. Westport is the main stomping ground for those who wish to join in the celebration. The roads surrounding the area from Main to 43 Street are usually blocked off so that participants can wonder around wherever they may like. Besides the bars, tents are usually set up in the parking lots for more room to dance, drink, or just gather.

Oh, and I forgot to mention one minor detail. This year, don't worry about having to go to class because this celebration falls right in the middle of Spring Break! So, even if you're not leaving the city you will have stories to tell from one of the biggest celebrations in the city. Grab your green beer and cheers to your fellow Irishman for this great holiday, but remember to be safe and hail a cab if the green dye gets to you. And if you're not of the legal drinking age, throw on your green and enjoy the parade!



Why A Bunny? CharlotteBishop

Everyone recognizes the cute little ball of fur who gives us eggs on Easter Day. He hip-hops down the bunny trail, bringing Easter Day with him. You guessed it: the Easter Bunny.

But exactly where did he come from? Why a bunny? Why not a platypus or a Tasmanian Devil? If not a bunny trail, where did Peter Cottontail come from and why is he here?

The Easter Bunny originated in Germany in the 1500's. Being one of the most fertile creatures on Earth, the rabbit was used in Christian lore as a symbol of new life. German settlers traveling to Pennsylvania in the 1700's brought the Bunny to America, where children were told that if they were good, the Bunny would give them a basket of colorful eggs.

Children used to make nests for the Bunny to put the eggs in. They would

create them from their caps or bonnets and put them in the garden. The tradition of parents hiding the eggs came later, after the Easter Bunny had spread his name throughout America.

There you have it: the history of the Easter Bunny in a nutshell. I guess we'll never know why early Christians didn't pick a platypus (seriously – it could be the symbol of confusion), but the Bunny will do for now.



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Spring Clean Those Lifeless Friendships: Hey sweetie, dump your trash on somebody else!

“Student Perspective”

MonicaLang

They never listen to advice, or take suggestions. They are too self-involved or destructive to realize that their beliefs are distorted. So, what can one do with a friend or victim of this nature? They are the friend who calls at 3 AM with the suicidal thoughts, or she is the self mutilating adolescent. How can one watch a friend that he or she cares about continue to hurt and beg for attention?

Why even bother trying to help this person, if he or she is destined to marry the person who is cheating on them, or if a jealous friend finds the need to exploit somebody else and not think twice about it, regardless of what one has tried to rationalize. These are the victims destined down the road of demise. What can one do?

Before anything else can take place, it takes a lot of courage for any one individual to admit that a “real” friend shouldn’t be treated this way. This is a malfunctioning friendship that has become an everlasting fountain of comfort. The victim or friend calls, and it is the friend’s job to pick up the pieces, right? Wrong.

First, friends need to understand that alone, he or she cannot solve the problem of the victim or friend stuck in this pattern of behavior. “Friends feel powerless because they are,” says Amanda Wurtzel, a psychotherapist in Santa Barbara, California, specializing in eating disorders, and self-injury. “These compulsions have roots in issues that have taken a lifetime to develop.”

This is a job of a professional. Friends can only say so much, and then realize that

victim is going to continue to make poor choices. Friendship should be a balanced relationship. One should give, and receive just like any other relationship. Why is it that some individuals feel the need to dump their baggage on other people? Is this a fair way to cope, and deal with pain? Not particularly; this is the job of a trained professional. So, my

advice to those still trying to save that one friend is to set up a few boundaries.

Boundaries are necessary in order to take care of

oneself and others. It is not his or her job to listen and take those 3 AM phone calls. Distance is vital. If he or she needs the attention suggest other options. “A respectable, adult relationship should be about expectations, standards and values with compassion for differences,” as quoted by Wurtzel. So, it’s about time to weed out those friends who are sucking the life out of our lives, and start with some hard-core spring cleaning (hint: start with friendships). Which friendships are really worthy of your time and effort, and which ones are really reciprocating of common courtesy?

“They are the friend who calls at 3 AM with the suicidal thoughts, or she is the self mutilating adolescent.”



Have you
been tagged

T.A.G



◀ Graphic by Chadd Rivera

Springing Forward

Michelle Michaliski

The past four months have been freezing cold. From one snowstorm to the next we've huddled ourselves inside waiting for the winter cold to pass. Well good news, spring is on its way! Before we know it, the grass will be green again, the dead tress will grow new leaves, and those little birds will be singing hymns of joy. Finally we will look out our windows and jump for joy that we can put that big bulky coat back in the closet for good!

Although this is exciting, we realize that we have no idea where our spring clothes are and have no place to put all our winter stuff. Well, break out the broom and dust rag and get started cleaning now. There is nothing worse than being ready for spring but surrounded by the ghost of winter in your home.

While going through your clothes during the closet transformation decide if maybe there are some items that you could get rid of. There are many Salvation Armies in your area that would love to receive your old t-shirts. Besides the Salvation Army, Humane Societies, Churches, and YMCA's are available for you to give the stuff you do not need or want. Many non-profits post wish lists on their websites for items that they need. So before you throw out that old t-shirt, soap, notebooks, toys, paper, or canned goods, think for a second if it's something that someone else can use.

Now that you can and want to get outside for any reason these organizations also provide volunteer opportunities. Become a Big Brother or Big Sister to a kid in your area, go walk dogs at a shelter, or organize outside adventures for those people placed in homes. Spring is a great time to get out and stretch your legs, try something new, and help others while having fun. Opportunities to give are easy to find. Search the Internet for non-profit organizations in your area. You never know what spring might bring!



"Dance to Kick Off Spring Fling"

Ben Kopp

Two semesters after the decision to discontinue Avila-sponsored formal dances, Group Activities Programming will bring the Spring Fling Dance back to the students! The new decision was reached in order to accommodate the many students who would like to see a dance held somewhere other than on campus.

By popular demand and based on research of various possible venues, the Spring Fling Dance will be held at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel on Metcalf Avenue to kick off Spring Fling Week in April.

This year, the theme for the week is Dreaming of Spring, and the theme of the dance is "In Your Dreams." The recommended attire is semi-

formal to formal, but all students of Avila University—and their dates—are welcome to wear what they wish to this night of free food and dancing.

As always, all members of the Avila University Community are invited and welcome to attend single, with a date, or with a small group of friends. The music starts at 9:00PM on Saturday, April 12, so be sure to mark your calendars for this returning event!

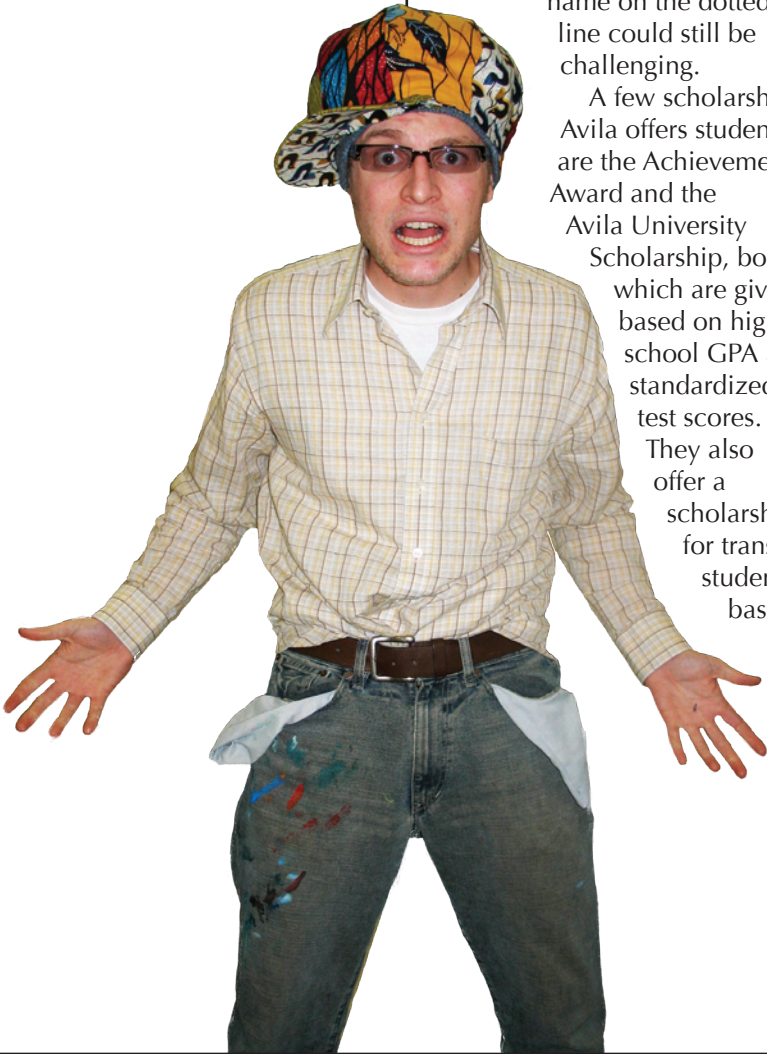
This year, the theme for the week is Dreaming of Spring, and the theme of the dance is





Find the **10** differences between the photos and win a **PRIZE** From the Prize Closet!
email your answers to kwalk24@gmail.com

KayleWalker



“We Pay so Much to Go Here” **[Insert Complaint]**

Every single person on Avila’s campus came here for a reason. For most, that reason depended heavily on financial support. Tuition fees are commonly the topic of conversation around campus and I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard the phrase “We pay so much to go here.”

For those of us who were lucky enough to receive financial support from the University through grants and scholarships, signing your name on the dotted line could still be challenging.

A few scholarships Avila offers students are the Achievement Award and the Avila University Scholarship, both which are giving based on high school GPA and standardized test scores. They also offer a scholarship for transfer students based on

the same criteria. There are also scholarships available for students that are outstanding outside of their GPA and test scores. A few of these include the Heritage Grant, Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Award, Service of Faith Grant, Performance Grant, and many more (for a complete list with details visit www.avila.edu/financialaid/avila.asp).

The Avila Performance Grant is a very special award to receive because members of the Avila community typically choose the students selected for this grant.

Dr. Ned Harris, Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Development, said, “We like to give students the opportunity to contribute toward the life of the campus.”

Students with a Performance Grant are expected to enhance student life by contributing their talents to Avila’s campus. The award has also undergone some changes in the past few years, by adding to the award amount.

The performance grant is offered to students participating in athletics, music, theater, and more recently advertising, art, campus ministry, mock trial, newspaper and video production.

The University gives each organization a set amount of money and the supervisor/coach of each organization decides how the money will be divided amongst the students.

This grant, like all Avila grants, is used as a recruiting tool to get talented individuals to attend Avila University. The unfortunate thing is that once you are already at Avila, your scholarship cannot be readjusted for you to get any more or any less money.

With the new additions it may seem unfair to students who are involved on campus and would have been eligible for a Performance Grant that Avila didn’t

offer at the time they received their scholarship package.

For instance, if you take my personal situation—I am a double major in PR and Advertising and Film and Digital Media, I participate in athletics and also in newspaper. If all of these things were offered under the Performance

Grant at the time I signed to attend Avila I may have been eligible for a hefty scholarship package.

I think it’s a natural instinct to be angry because it seems unfair, but Dr. Harris shed some light on the situation that cooled my jets. When I signed my letter of intent to attend Avila, they offered me a scholarship package, a commitment, and I made the decision to enter the University. You made that same commitment too.

“It would be unfair if we didn’t live up to our commitment and took money away,” said Dr. Harris. “But that’s not going to happen.”

Dr. Harris is the “new kid on the block” and is trying to help the University figure out how to get more students to attend Avila. So if you feel like you missed out on some scholarship money, remember: we all made the commitment to attend Avila University and life isn’t always fair. Avila is taking strides in the right direction to make Avila a better University. Isn’t that what we all want in the long run anyway? To come from a respectable, talented, unique and truly special University.



Avila University
Tuition, Fee, Room & Board Rates

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | Increase |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Tuition | \$18,300 | \$19,500 | 6.5% |
| Technology Fee | \$400 | \$500 | 2.5% |
| Activity Fee | \$150 | \$150 | 0.0% |
| Total Tuition and Fees | \$18,550 | \$20,150 | 6.9% |
| Room (semi-private) | \$2,750 | \$2,900 | 5.5% |
| Board | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | 0.0% |

| (Carte Blanch) | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | Increase |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Regular Part-time | \$465 | \$495 | 6.5% |
| Avila Advantage Undergraduate | \$385 | \$390 | 1.3% |
| Avila Advantage Graduate | \$435 | \$445 | 2.30% |
| Graduate MBA | \$435 | \$460 | 5.75% |

JacquelineSharp

Up Close
With
Colleen
Reagan



Avila has a wide variety of students that attend, but one student that is sure to stick out is Colleen Reagan. She is a tall, blue eyed, freckled, brown haired, outgoing, charismatic, and funny girl. Colleen is a sophomore this year and has gone to Avila for two years. She is originally from St. Louis, Missouri where she went to Notre Dame High School. In high school she was one the star

players on her high school soccer team and had a large group of friends. Now, she plays soccer at Avila and is approaching her third season. Soccer is Reagan’s first love, because she has played since she was two years old. She plays defense for the team and enjoys it, because when she is on the field she is surrounded by her closest friends and her sister, Ashley. The reason Colleen decided to attend Avila and play soccer is because she wanted to follow in her sister’s footsteps and to stay close to her. Colleen is majoring in Communications and plans on graduating in 2010. When she was little her dream job was to own a Dairy Queen, because she and a friend thought it would be fun, but now that she has grown up she has decided that her dream job is to be an event planner. When Colleen is not playing soccer her favorite sport to watch is basketball, because that is another sport that she used to play. In her spare time her favorite things to do are spend time with her family, juggle the soccer ball, play basketball in her back yard with her dad, swim, play with her dogs, shop, hang out with her friends, listen to music and watch movies. Her favorite type of music is country and her favorite group is

Rascal Flatts. A few of her favorite movies are Just Friends, Cinderella Story, The Holiday, 13 going on 30, and Love & Basketball. These movies all describe her fun loving and goofy personality. Her favorite food is a BLT, because it reminds her of the summer time when her and her family sit outside on their back deck. The one thing Colleen couldn’t live without is her Blistex Silk and Shine. Since she comes from an Irish family, her favorite holiday is St. Patrick’s Day, because her family goes to the St. Patrick’s Day parade in St. Louis every year. She enjoys this holiday, because she gets to spend time with all of her family. So, if you are on campus and happen to run into Colleen expect a smile or a friendly “hi” or maybe even a random funny comment.

DrewAmbach

The Guy
From
Fullerton

You can see him on the baseball field everyday, improving and doing what he can to get better. Such dedication is a rare thing to have these days, but Jeremy Arbisio has what it takes to be such a person. He is a second baseman on Avila’s baseball team and has been around campus for three years now. He came to Avila from Fullerton, California where he attended Fullerton Junior College his first two years. His first year at Avila he found success on the field earning First Team All-Conference and First Team All-Region. He put up great numbers, but the next year he was plagued by injury and was forced to sit out the entire year. He really felt the need to come back this year because he had some unfinished business.

“I wanted that feeling when you step between the lines and you know it’s time to go. When you put your work on the line and see where it takes you,” said Jeremy. Jeremy always sets out to win and succeed, and when you have such a player and teammate it makes it easy to enjoy going to the yard. He currently bats lead off for the team and continues to put up big numbers. He is a key to the team’s success and they look at him as a leader both on and off the field. With another year of big expectations, Jeremy looks to get Avila back to the regional championship game and continue on with the winning tradition. He, along with the rest of the team, has high

LaneGoodin

One of Many
Engaged
Caring
Professors

At Avila we have some amazing professors that are here for one reason and one reason only and that is the students. One in particular is Linda Strelluf. Her office is located in Dallavis Center next to the insanely interesting and hilarious Dr. Benjamin Mead, and the sharply dressed, fast talking journalist Mr. Joseph Snorgrass. Her door is always open for students to come and talk to her for whatever reason they might need to. She started working here in 2000 as an adjunct, teaching Fundamentals of Communication. Since then she has been hired on as a full-time faculty member. For the last eight years she has taught sixteen different classes ranging from Popular Culture and Survey of Film to Public Relations and Mass Media. Because of the wide range of classes she has taught I was interested in what class was her favorite.

“My favorite changes from time to time. Right now, it is Mass Media in Society,” said Strelluf. “There is so much information to cover that the class moves very fast. We get to examine both the past and the present and make connections about how and why we got from there to here.” Not only does she teach many classes, but is also involved in many committees and organizations here at Avila. She is the advisor for (IABC) the International Association of Business Communicators and involved with the Library After Hours Film Series too. She is a member of the Instruction Resource Committee, Budget Committee, and the Strategic Budget Committee. As a proud faculty member she also states, “It is my pleasure to support the

Arts at Avila while attending gallery and theatre exhibits and performances.” After spending eight years at Avila, one would have many memories of laughter and tears. Strelluf’s favorite moment at Avila is “watching students transform from nice, bright kids into good people who have a purpose for their lives and are educated, qualified, and creative professionals.” It is professors like Linda Strelluf that make Avila such a wonderful, engaging campus. As a student body we are so lucky to have her, as well as the many others that do the same.



JavierKelty

Straight Outta Riyadh: The Taz Alanzi Story



Hundreds of years before Saudi Arabia was even loosely established by a central government, its surrounding area was regulated by tribes. The kingdom of Yemen had been a powerful civilization since between 2300 BC and the sixth century, but when they decided to conquer the vast territory claimed by the Alanzi tribe, things took a turn. The king of Yemen wanted the most beautiful ladies of the land to be sent to live in his palace. One of the women the king fancied happened to be the girlfriend of Kaleb 'Wyel,' a popular man in the community. When Kaleb's girlfriend was kidnapped, he went to the palace and killed the king and his son with his sword. This act unified the people of the Alanzi tribe and made them stronger than ever. Kaleb, the great-great-grandson of Abraham (yes from the Bible) became the new king, helped his people through generous charities and became a legend.

The Alanzi tribe has come a long way from the story of Kaleb. Today, the Alanzi tribe is one of the biggest in Saudi Arabia. The king of Kuwait and the royal Al-Saud family of Saudi Arabia are members of this tribe, consisting of roughly 1500 people. All of these people have been raised to know and appreciate their family tree. Avila Freshman Mamdoah 'Taz' Alanzi happens to keep a copy of his family tree saved on his laptop.

Born in Riyadh on April 30, 1983, Taz lived a somewhat privileged lifestyle, coming from such a powerful family. However, he managed to act like everyone else; went to public schools, spent his time jumping dunes in his Jeep and smoking hooka with his boys in the desert. The most popular past time for teens is drifting, though. Two people get in a car and get it going at least 70 MPH and then let their feet barely drift on the road. Unless you're looking for a crazy rush and a possible trip to the hospital, you shouldn't try it.

"When I get my first car, my father gave it to me, I have accident in first two weeks because of drifting," Taz proceeded to warn.

Aside from the obvious difference (Saudi Arabia being a predominantly Muslim country), from the United States, it also has free healthcare and education—including college. The government tries to make its people as comfortable as possible, since that's who they are there to serve.

"If you need money for a house...they give it to you," Taz mentioned as he drew a diagram of his house.

The main difference between households here, in comparison to Saudi Arabia, is the fact that Americans don't usually have more than one building for their living area. Not only did his house have a tall wall, but there is a separate building for the guys and girls to hang out and then there's the main living area where the dining room, bathroom and bedrooms are. There is also a mini-parking lot on the

property for their plethora of cars. Coming from a nation with a surplus of gas, every member of the family is able to afford a car. Taz owned a Jeep and a Lexus back home.

His dream has always been to work at the leading gas company in Saudi Arabia called Aramco, the company that supplies the States with all of its oil. When he graduated high school, Taz attended the University of King Saud, where he received his Bachelor's in financial management. He worked at a bank for four months, but felt like he was wasting his time. Taz was aware that he would need more than a Bachelor's degree if he wanted to fulfill his dream. Another advantage he knew would help was learning English. This was enough inspiration to leave his beloved country for America.

Taz went to the University of Alabama, but didn't miss big-city living. Taz then attended UMSL in St. Louis, but the school made it hard for non-English speakers.

Taz only stayed in the other two towns for eight months each, but he's been at Avila for two semesters and plans on returning.

Taz has seen both coasts and is always eager to meet new people. He has his beefs about a place other than his homeland like anyone else but loves the U.S. He can't let pleasure get in the way of business, though, so as soon as he finishes his Master's in accounting he plans to continue his dream of working for Aramco.



hopes and big dreams for this year. Jeremy will do everything he can to see that those dreams come true. Everyone wants to go out a winner and with this being his last season, he would like to see the team do well and play as long as possible.

Tonya Stokes was born in Kansas City, Kansas on June 13, 1959. She was raised by both her parents and remained in Kansas City throughout her childhood. Tonya had a close relationship with her mother until her unexpected passing last year. She has two younger brothers and three younger sisters. Tonya was married to her first husband for a brief time and has been married to her second husband for the last twelve years. She has two children from her previous marriage. She also became an instant mom of four more when she married her second husband, but don't let her hear you call them her stepchildren. To Tonya, they are all equally her children. She has a total of four grandchildren.

Tonya has had several jobs in the past (which she did not like) including a cashier and file clerk. She finally found her niche when she became a bus driver fourteen years ago. She says aside from the management team, she enjoys driving the school bus, but is looking forward to graduating and going into the field of social work.

Tonya attended Penn Valley Community College where she obtained her Associates of Arts Degree in Social Work. She transferred to Central Missouri State University in 2004 to begin working on her Bachelor's Degree. Unhappy with the education she was receiving there, she transferred to Avila last fall. She hopes to graduate next year. She is not involved in any student activities or organizations; she says she just doesn't have the time

with a job, kids, school, and homework. Although Tonya enjoys children, she has decided to seek a job as a hospital social worker for the elderly. When asked why she chose that route she said, "When my mother passed away, I did not like the way me and my family were treated. I want to improve the lives of the older people in the community." She also said that while she enjoys younger children, she does not have the patience to deal with older children and often in the role of a social worker who works with kids, you don't get a choice. Tonya's religious background includes both Baptist and Pentecostal, but right now she considers herself a "wanderer." She is unsure about which church she wants to be a part of. Right now she says she is searching for answers not only in a particular religion, but in her faith. She says that although she knew Avila was a Catholic University, it had no bearing on her decision to attend. She chose it because it had the program she wanted and was conveniently located.

MichelleJasquez

The Tale of Tonya Stokes



Emily Hoskins



Red Rant

The Movie Experience Without the Movie



Does the \$9.00 include the times a cell phone will ring, my chair will get kicked, and the interruptions of the beyond annoying teenagers? Moviegoers today are in a very different setting than in the past. Yes, there is still a concession stand to fulfill our detrimental food cravings, the big screen, the large selection of theatre seats, and an amazing sound system. Yet these well known features are being drowned out by negative elements that seem to be out of control. Going to the movies today may leave one in a feeling of violence and rage.

I arrive at the box office to purchase a ticket for my movie of choice and it's \$9.00? What? I'm not getting season tickets to AMC or anything, it's just one movie, right? Ok, I'll let it slide because I really want to see this movie. Then I pass by the concession stand, look at my empty wallet and I decide that I am still full from dinner because the million-dollar ticket ran into my food budget. So, even though it's really crowded, I get a decent seat and I think everything is going great. Then, one minute before the show starts they run, jump and skip in. A mob of hyper, chatty, bratty teenagers enter. It doesn't even matter where they sit, their sound will carry all over the theater.

AMC tries so hard to inform people to turn off their cell phones, and to please not text or talk during the movie and not to "spoil the movie by adding their own soundtrack." But, apparently people love making soundtracks, and let me tell you, some of these people are extremely talented. Every day if they can laugh that annoyingly, talk that loud, viciously chew that popcorn, kick my chair, and let their phone ring every five seconds, then these people deserve a sound track record deal for their very hard work. Hey, it would at least be better than another Britney Spears album.

The movie begins. There maybe some hope yet. Wait....no, no I spoke to soon. Somebody is kicking my chair like they have a permanent spasm in their foot muscles. Then is starts to feel like they are getting ready to kick a 50 yard field goal and my chair is the innocent little ball that is at the mercy of a 12 year old menace to society.

So what is one to do? We are in a day and age where we can't just simply turn around and ask the stupid little kid, who we would love to beat on continually, to please quit kicking the chair. But we resort to the "half way quick turn of the head" to send the message. And if they don't stop after that, then heaven forbid you might have to turn your head all the

way around to get it through their head. And if that doesn't work, ladies and gentlemen, take out your gobstoppers, select your least favorite flavors and one by one start pelting the little nuisance as hard and as near to the face as you can. A little violent? Then substitute gummy bears for the gobstoppers.

Sorry, but in such cases where one pays \$9.00 to see a two hour movie sometimes a little rage blackout is in order. This is just a example of a typical speed bump that one might encounter during a movie going experience. There is also "the talker" who every other minute asks a question. "Where are they going?" "Why did he do that?" "Do they know each other?" "Did she kill him?" I don't know, LET'S FIND OUT TOGETHER O.K.?

And then there are the loud teenagers who need no introduction. They should be limited to one warning and then after that I should be able to start shooting them mercilessly with a paintball gun. Bring it on. So next time you think about going to the movies, be prepared. Gobstoppers, gummy bears, paintballs and the means to distribute those paintballs. Paintball gun too violent for most? Ok then, spitballs will have to suffice.



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Jack Black and Mos Def star in this whimsical new comedy based out of an old video store in Passaic, New Jersey. Jack Black brings his quirky personality and an over the top loopy performance to his character of Jerry, a guy that always ruins everything he touches. On a mission to destroy the city's power plant that he believes is controlling peoples' minds, he accidentally gets electrocuted and becomes magnetized.

He walks into the old video store that his friend Mike is running (Mos Def) while the owner is away and erases all of the movies after touching them. In a sticky situation the boys decide to do their own version of the Ghost Busters for a loyal customer with dementia. After the ladies nephew and his friends see the film more movies are demanded. Jerry and Mike then re-make countless movies which make an entertaining storyline

and hysterical scenes.

The film was very enjoyable and had a very unexpected ending. Although the genre of the film is comedy, the ending is very heartfelt. I wouldn't give it five stars but it is a definite must see especially for Jack Black fans. One guarantee is that you will



laugh the entire way through and leave the movie in a very feel good happy mood.



Michelle Michalski

Be Kind Rewind

KayleWalker



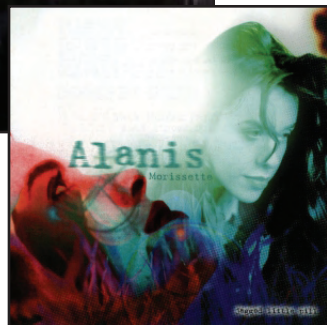
Back to the 90's Concert Review



We were kicking it "old school." My absolute favorite music comes from the 90s and Matchbox Twenty and Alanis Morissette stand out in a generation of great music.

The glow of cell phones instead of the old, old school lighters lit up the arena, making me realize I was still in my generation. But come on, I jammed out to M20 and Alanis in fifth or sixth grade and that seems real ooold to me!

This was my first concert at the new



Sprint Center and I was really nervous that I wouldn't be getting the whole concert experience. After all, the best thing about concerts is the energy and I wasn't sure if I would be able to fully get into the music sitting in a chair.

Not far into the show, did I realize how wrong I was. As soon as Matchbox Twenty hit

the stage, the entire crowd was on their feet, and believe me, people were getting crazy. The girl in front of me even lit up a cigarette in a no smoking area.

So now that my doubts were gone, it was time to enjoy the music. Mute Math opened, and I have to say, I really don't follow the band. Their sound was good but I didn't exactly run home and download any songs. The band did have a member that was from

Missouri, so I guess that's kind of cool.

After a prolonged set change, Alanis Morissette took the stage, and let me tell you, the girl can sing. She played hits from the 90s such as "You Oughta Know", "Hand in My Pocket", and of course, "Ironie." She also played some songs off her newer albums, which I didn't recognize nor was impressed with. Despite a few songs, Morissette gave an excellent performance and put the crowd in the right mindset for Matchbox Twenty.

Matchbox Twenty hit the stand with the most interesting entrance I've seen at a concert. It started with a large TV screen with a spaceman and a T-minus countdown until they were on the stage. As the show continued, they had similar set changes with the same awesomeness as the opening.

M20 played a two-hour show with hits such as "3 AM", "Real World", "Bright Lights", "Bent", "If You're Gone" and much, much more. The band had great stage presence and really put on a great show. The only thing I thought was missing was a big screen that showed close-ups of the artist.

It was fun to listen to music I loved more than a decade ago. Who would have thought I still remembered all the words?!

It doesn't happen often that the average person gets a chance to talk to a celebrity. Alison Fiber, a member of the Talon staff, had the opportunity to personally ask Christina Ricci a question on a nation wide conference call thanks to Allied Advertising.

The topic of conversation was Ricci's new movie Penelope. In this modern day romantic tale, "Penelope" is about a young girl's inspiring journey, a mysterious family secret and the power of love. With all odds against her, in order for Penelope to break the family curse, she must find true love with "one of her own kind." The warm and funny adventure leads her to realize the most important life lesson, "I like myself the way I am."

Penelope Wilhern (Christina Ricci), born to wealthy socialites (Catherine O'Hara and Robert E. Grant), is afflicted by the Wilhern spell that can only be broken when she finds love. Hidden away in her family's estate, the lonely girl meets a string of suitors in her parent's futile attempt to break the curse. Each eligible bachelor is enamored with Penelope and her sizable dowry... until her curse is revealed.

Lemon (Peter Dinklage), a mischievous and eager tabloid reporter wants a photograph of the mysterious Penelope and hires Max (James McAvoy) to pose as a prospective suitor to get the shot. The handsome down-on-his luck gambler finds he's falling for Penelope, but not wanting

to disappoint her or to expose his surreptitious ways, he decides to disappear.

Fed up by his latest betrayal and determined to live life on her own terms, Penelope breaks free from her family and ventures into the world alone. She finds adventure with Annie, her first friend (Reese Witherspoon), and becomes the person she was meant to be.

The movie relates to young people because it is entertaining, romantic, and promotes the view of being an individual and genuinely liking yourself. "The movie celebrates individuality," said Ricci. "It is great to be different."


Penelope is in theaters now.

KayleWalker

Celebrity Talk






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He Said/She Said

Legalized Prostitution?

He Said
JoshuaLoden

Legalized prostitution can be debated from several perspectives; however, in my mind the most compelling and persuasive is the traditional feminist perspective.

This topic was too **HOT** for the Talon's Pages...



She Said
EmilieBrumit

My question is how can you make the age-old profession of prostitution illegal in this type of society? It is an exchange of goods and wealth between two private individuals.

Check out the full articles online at thetalon-online.com

He Said/She Said will be back for the April Issue!

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|-----------------|------|-------|-----|------|
| Hillary Clinton | 54% | 51% | 38% | 58% |
| Barack Obama | 44% | 47% | 60% | 40% |
| Other | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% |



Republican

| | Ohio | Texas | Vt. | R.I. |
|---------------|------|-------|-----|------|
| Mike Huckabee | 31% | 38% | 14% | 22% |
| John McCain | 60% | 51% | 72% | 65% |
| Other | 9% | 11% | 14% | 13% |



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Kayle Walker

Lady Eagles Finish Strong

Four points away from a HAAC Conference Championship game, the Lady Eagles Basketball team ended their season in defeat. The girls may have lost by the scoreboard, but were still winners for the University.

The Lady Eagles finished their season with an outstanding 17-15 record. Although the ladies started their season off on a rocky start with a 6-10 record, they would go on to win the next 10 of their 15 games, proving to be a team to look out for.

The team finished fourth in their conference and were set up against the number five seed, Evangel Lady Knights for the first round of the

playoffs. The teams hit the hardwood February 28, in Avila's own Mabee fieldhouse.

The gym was packed with spirited fans and proud parents. The most attended game by the Avila community throughout the

entire season.

"It was really great to see that much support and it made the game that much more exciting to play in," said Ashley Townsend, junior.

The Lady Eagles brought their game faces and beat Evangel by an exceptional 18 points, moving them into the next round of the playoffs.

Up next on Avila's list was the Benedictine Raven's. Benedictine was the number 1 seed in the conference and ranked 12 in the nation. Another exciting game, the battle over the lead flipped flop the entire game, Avila never being down by more than 6 points and being up by 7 at one point. With only 10 seconds on the clock and down by 4 points, Avila's hopes for the conference championship were crushed.

Although it was a heart-breaking season ender, don't feel sorry for the Eagles. They hang their heads high and are already thinking about next season. The team was senior-less and is expecting every player back next season.

"We're not losing anyone and plan to work hard in postseason," said Townsend.

Another thing to think about, it was fun seeing the team have such a successful season and having support

from the Avila students made it even more fun. Athletes should support each other and encourage success, because winning is contagious and who knows who might catch it next?



HAAC 2007-2008 All- Conference Picks

Women's Basketball

1st Team All-Conference: Ashley Townsend

3rd Team All-Conference: Jaime Kenney

Honorable Mentioned All-Conference: Alyson Young

Freshman of the Year: Alyson Young

Men's Basketball

Honorable Mentioned All-Conference: Martez Young

Honorable Mentioned All-Conference: Michael Williams



Clements Takes Over Head Soccer Position



Avila University Director of Athletics Mike Sharpe has announced the hiring of Chris Clements as the New Head Men's & Women's Soccer Coach.

Coach Clements takes over the position from Paul McNally who served as the women's coach for six seasons and as the men's coach for four seasons. Clements comes to Avila after serving as the Assistant Women's Coach at the University of Central Missouri for three seasons (2005-2007). While assisting the program at UCM the Jennies compiled an overall record of 36-17-8, including an MIAA co-championship in 2007. During Clements time as the lead recruiter, the Jennies placed twenty-six players on the MIAA All-Academic team as well as seven players named to first team all conference, fourteen honorable mention all conference, and one NCAA D2 All-American.

In addition to his experience at the University of Central Missouri he has served as the assistant and as the head coach for the girls Missouri Olympic Development Program from 2006-2008, and currently is the Head Boys coach of the U18 United Soccer Club of Central Missouri.

"We are very excited to have someone with the background and experience Chris brings to the program,

department and university in helping us continue our upward ascent within the Heart of America Athletic Conference," said Sharpe. "His familiarity with the challenges of college recruiting, his connections within the high school ranks in the area and his active involvement with area club soccer

should help in our continued progress of the program."

This past season Avila women's soccer finished with an overall record of 10-8 (4-5) while the men's program finished with a record of 5-13 (1-8).



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SpencerDavis

Seriously— Another weight room article?

Unfortunately, yes. Yet again Avila's weight room has an issue big enough to be put into the school paper. The problem this time...no access!

Over the school year somehow over 3000lbs of weight have been stolen from the weight room. Items from dumbbells to medicine balls to even bars and 45lbs plates have disappeared. So in spite of it, everyone has been locked out of the facility.

Unless you are an athlete with your entire team and a coach physically present at all times, you are not allowed access.

"It makes things really frustrating when your career is over but you're still a student and you can't stay in shape with lifting, even though we pay for it in our activity fees," said Billy Finn, fourth-year student. So what are our options this time, since keeping it closed is absurd? One way would be to put a camera in the weight room, since Avila seems to have gotten a few over break and has to have some laying around. Another option would be to pay some student to sit at a desk inside with work-study money and make students show a student id and sign it to get access. This could actually help keep it clean



and orderly as well. Either way would help and fix the problem. Hopefully this issue will be resolved shortly and we can fill this spot in the Talon with some new and positive stories!

Meet the 'Monj'

KayleWalker

Straight out of San Diego, California, Taylor Monjo ("Monj") joins Avila's Baseball team. Monjo attended University City High School and continued his education at Grossmont College before coming to Avila. At Avila he studies Business

Administration and plans to go into Real Estate and own a bar after college.

Monjo is a left-handed pitcher that will lead the bullpen for the Eagles this year. He chose to come to Avila because the coaching staff is great and the team was ranked in the top twenty-five in the nation last season.

One of Monjo's greatest moments in his career was being selected for the Western League Pitcher of the Year in High School. Monjo has had much success in his past and will help the future of Avila baseball. One thing Monjo looks forward to this season is, "having a good time with the boys."



A personal goal for Monjo is being selected as a HAAC All-Conference Pitcher.

As far as the team goes, Monjo hopes to win Conference and Regionals in order to win a bid to the World Series.

Monjo is motivated by being the best player he can be. Come check out Monjo on the mound and the rest of the Eagles at up-coming home games March 11 and March 25. And if you want to get out of Kansas City for spring break, check out some away games in St. Louis, MO verse Lindenwood University on March 15, Willams Baptist in Walnut Ridge, AR on March 17, and Evangel University in Springfield, MO on March 19.



Senior Softball

Spotlight: Terra Nichols

Dani Asher

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to hit a grand slam? Well ask Avila softball player Terra Nichols. Her greatest softball memory at Avila is when she hit a home run and a grand slam in the same game against Baker.

Terra has been a starter on the softball team for four years now and really likes the dynamics of the team this year. "The dynamic is much better this year than the last few. Everyone likes each other and gets along," said Terra.

According to this senior, the Avila softball team should be pretty good this season. She feels that their biggest challenge is going to be staying healthy and injury free. Within the conference, Evangel is always a team to beat with their strong program and Lindenwood is a rival. "We always have problems with Lindenwood, and Coach even got kicked out

of a game once because it was so unfair."

Terra is in the nursing program at Avila and is expecting to graduate in 2010. She plans on becoming a nurse practitioner and working in the area of obstetrics and gynecology. She is also going to play on a fast pitch team this summer, "It is so hard to think of not playing anymore since I have played for 18 years of my life."

Advice that Terra would give to underclassmen on the team is that if they continue to get along and have fun as a team, then they will continue to grow and improve as a team. Come out and

support Terra as well as the rest of the softball team this season!

Due to weather cancellations, they kicked off their season at the Evangel Softball Tournament on February 28. Visit the Avila website for this season's schedule.



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MonicaLang

Imagine, waking up and what? Oops...no coffee



The United States of America is a caffeine driven Nation. What is it about the need for energy? Where is the right kind of natural energy to make us thrive? Maybe, this is because Americans like to stay busy. Busyness means productivity. Productivity means professionalism. Professionalism means acting like an adult. Adulthood is life. Life is about growing up and being responsible. So, why is it that people find the need to develop a certain routine that usually involves something inhumane, or artificial? Are

we all looking for a way to cheat the system? Is cheating the system without getting caught the drive for every person?

Just think the hard working father says, "Yes, I work 60+ hours a week, but I visit Starbucks every 3 to 4 hours, to support my 60 hour work habit!?"

We are the triumphant, powerful, frugal Americans, who are always on the go. Which could explain that no matter where we build a "Starbucks" it would probably still thrive in profits. Caffeine!

Caffeine! Ay, ay I cannot function without caffeine! If I don't have my coffee in the morning, I cannot function all day!

More people would argue that this is the wrong way to build dependence on how to be productive, but let's be honest; it works! Drugs work! Caffeine works. Energy drinks work! So, maybe that is why we are so preoccupied with becoming the abominable, Hercules-like characters that we see on television.

There are several factors that play into this phenomenon. Americans are creatures of habit, who learn from example. Through behavior and models, Americans begin to emulate the unstoppable soccer moms and power house dads. Life is a hard game, nobody said it was easy. This is the story of every American in this country.

Could this be true? This constant phase of revving up and winding down is like a drug in itself, isn't it? Yes, caffeine is like the booster in the morning and the soother at night. Drinking loads of caffeine in the morning and then taking a few Tylenol pm at night to counteract this habit creates a pretty tough job for the human body.

In an ABC News special entitled Caffeine Nation: Diet Coke addiction Dr. Harris Stratyner, a medical doctor, said, "People do indeed become addicted to caffeine very rapidly, and they also withdraw from caffeine very rapidly." This could be a harmless routine, however with every choice there is also a consequence. This is just a part of becoming responsible, right? Wrong, Americans need to be watching the amount of caffeine being pumped into his or her system.

With 165 million Americans habitually consuming caffeine, it looks like caffeine isn't going to be taken off the market any time soon. So, in order to watch out for health consequences just make sure each American is limiting his or her caffeine use. Too much caffeine can lead to osteoporosis, and serious consequences for the skeleton in general, according to the FDA in an article entitled "Caffeine Nation: eye opening statistics." It is the most commonly taken mind-altering drug on the planet.

With that said, watch out! Don't get caught up in this Caffeine addicted nation! Go running, drink healthily, eat healthy, and get an adequate amount of sleep. Spring is blooming just around the corner, and to be honest, I am suspicious that the next weapon against America could be deprived of the caffeine that is so much dependence to this nation. Imagine, waking up and what, oops....NO COFFEE, or DIET COKE, or COCACOLA, or CAFFEINE of any kind. Hey, I am just saying that if another country really wanted to get back at America they would rob the "caffeine" from which we function. And this country would be in trouble, big TROUBLE, if that ever happened! So, with the new season approaching, maybe it is time to find a natural way of staying motivated. Life is too short to depend on some artificial caffeine to do the work for the sleepy neurons in the morning, try an alternative like exercising!

The race for president is captivating, Missouri is 70,000,000 dollars in debt, a U.S. embassy was viciously attacked, Senator John McCain flew on a plane and attended some of the same fundraisers as lobbyist Vicki Iseman (31 years his younger), and therefore he was clearly pulling a Bill Clinton. Yes, as far as political commentary goes this journalist's glass is overflowing with a wealth of topics, but sometimes you have to write from the heart. And politically there is an issue of such divine merit and importance it secedes all else going on in America. It is Proposition 3-17, which potentially could be brought before congress. What is proposition 3-17? Well, sit back, pour a pint, and indulge. Proposition 3-17 as presented by Guinness's website.

With nine times more Irish-Americans

in this country than there are people in all of Ireland, never before has the Irish spirit been so alive. Come St. Patrick's Day that spirit is even more pronounced as everyone reveals a little bit of their Irish side. From the camaraderie in the streets to the joy pulsating in their hearts, people from all nationalities and backgrounds bask in the glory that is Irish.

That is why Guinness and the undersigned, present Proposition 3-17 which hereby requests that St. Patrick's Day be made an official holiday not only to officially commemorate the spirit of this day, but to celebrate and honor St. Patrick himself. A man once known for driving snakes out of Ireland, St. Patrick now embodies the pride and strength in all who are Irish and in Irish enthusiasts alike. March 17, St. Patrick's Day, is a widely celebrated holiday in the US. Not only Irish Americans, but

also an ever-growing community of people in America from all races, creeds and Weltanschauungs partake in the day's festivities.

Guinness and Proposition 3-17 supporters believe that a regulated, official holiday would not only reduce the amount of employees missing work in order to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but officially consider making this day official so that it can be observed and celebrated annually by all Americans for generations to come, when not only our nation, but nations around the world, will join together to enjoy the parades, the fun and fellowship and a pint of Guinness stout or two.

Having read that, consider Kansas City's own history is plagued with public drunkenness, public urination, etc., and an ongoing battle by the elected officials to, so to speak "keep it clean". Now, having said that, go to the website and

DavidWilson

Making it Official: Proposition 3-17

sign the petition, and grant American Citizens another holiday to enjoy stress free. The first reference to Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day history alluded to the negative, but the fact that children line the streets to cheer at parades and enjoy free candy, while neighbors and friends gathering for the common bond of enjoying one another's company, far outweighs the disheartening actions of a few. Politicians are screaming for a unified America, and if they looked a little closer they would see at least for one day the America they dream of exists. It may be covered in green, not able to walk a straight line, or say the alphabet from J to S, but by George, exists. However, at the end of the day ethically we must all do what is right, and the decision is obviously up to each individual person to get online and correct this horrible injustice plaguing America and her people. Yet, to be completely honest, the Irish in me would prefer a proposition 3-18, if you know what I mean.

ChaddRivera

Internship Impossible

For many of us before we take that first step into the real world and leave the nights of working till 10 PM and partying till 4 AM behind, we have to first get an internship. I can't speak for all majors or for the industry you want to go in, but as for advertising and graphic design the odds of getting an internship is as hard as winning the lotto.

Honestly I wouldn't care about how hard it is to get an internship if you didn't need one to get to get a job. The funny thing is that they want you to have experience but they won't give you any (maybe it's an industry inside joke or something). It doesn't matter how good your work is, getting an internship in Kansas City is as probable as Hillary Clinton becoming President, not likely. So now that I somehow have found a way to get my foot in the door (don't get it twisted I'm still swimming in deep water), here are a few ways that may help land an internship. E-mail as many different people as you possibly can, if your keyboard isn't smoking then keep e-mailing.

Annoy your teachers until they admit

to knowing someone in the industry. (Warning: this may affect your grade)

Just walk in the company you want to intern with and pretend like you work there. This option may hinder any chances of ever actually working there, but it would be pretty funny.

These options above may help you get an internship (probably not, but what can you do). The truth is to get an internship you just have be in the right place or know the right person at the right time. Your work will sell itself once you get there, it's just getting there. Don't give up, sooner or later you will get in. If not you can always work as a car salesman or in the insurance industry, or better yet, keep working jobs until 10 PM at night and go to a college party. And don't worry if your still partying with college students when you're 30. The 18 years-olds will need you to buy them beer, they'll still think your cool.

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